



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Saginaw, MI*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Saginaw for a Brownfields Pilot. Saginaw (population 69,512) is located approximately 100 miles north of Detroit. The City is situated at the north end of Michigan's industrial corridor and near the gateway to the State's recreational areas. Principle employment is automotive manufacturing, medicine, education, and agriculture. In the past, lumber, oil, and coal industries have been large employers for the region. Saginaw's 31.7% poverty level is among the highest in the nation, and the unemployment rate is 9.75%.

The City has hundreds of idle and abandoned former industrial and manufacturing sites. During the last 30 years, more than 800 abandoned properties in the central business district have reverted to City or State ownership. The Pilot targets City-, State-, and privately-owned commercial and industrial properties located within or adjacent to the State-designated Renaissance Zone and on the City's riverfront. As a result of the Renaissance Zone designation, the City has received numerous inquiries from developers and prospective businesses about properties and tax benefits. Uncertainty about the existence of environmental contamination has hindered redevelopment.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Saginaw, Michigan*

**Date of Announcement:**  
July 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets City-, State- and privately-owned commercial and industrial properties located within or adjacent to the State-designated Renaissance Zone or on the City's riverfront.

### Contacts:

City of Saginaw  
(312) 886-7257

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

Saginaw's primary objective is to increase redevelopment and create jobs in the target areas by encouraging private and public investment. To assist in this effort, the Pilot will develop a working inventory database of brownfields target properties; address those properties with high economic priority; and attempt to maximize the communities' involvement and understanding of the benefits of brownfields redevelopment.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Developing a brownfields site inventory;
- Conducting an economic analysis of prospective properties within the target area;
- Performing Phase I and II environmental site assessments for those targeted properties; and
- Providing outreach and education to the community regarding brownfields redevelopment issues.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.